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~~SECRET COMINT CHANNELS~~

FOR [REDACTED] DDC JIO

SHOAL BAY

HEREWITH SUGGESTED REDRAFT AS REQUESTED.

QUOTE

YOU ASKED ME WHETHER THE SIGINT STATION AT SHOAL BAY WAS NOW  
FUNCTIONING AS PLANNED FOLLOWING CYCLONE TRACY.

2. SHOAL BAY SUFFERED RELATIVELY MINOR BUILDING DAMAGE FROM  
THE CYCLONE BUT COONAWARRA, THE PREDECESSOR STATION, WAS VIRTUALLY  
DEMOLISHED. THE AERIAL SYSTEM AT SHOAL BAY WAS DAMAGED AND  
FLOODING INTERFERED WITH THE COMPLETION OF CERTAIN INSTALLATIONS  
INSIDE THE MAIN BUILDING. WITHIN DAYS OF THE CYCLONE HOWEVER,  
STAFF HAD BEEN MOVED INTO SHOAL BAY AND THE STATION BEGAN OPERATING  
ON A LIMITED SCALE.

3. THE STATION IS NOW ON A FULLY OPERATIONAL BASIS. THE  
EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE, WITH FINAL ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE NEW AERIAL SYSTEM ANTICIPATED IN JUNE. THE PLANNED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ARE EXPECTED TO BE INSTALLED AND OPERATIONAL DURING  
1977.

4. THE SHOAL BAY SIGINT STATION IS THEREFORE FUNCTIONING AS  
PLANNED, BUT ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL WILL NOT BE REACHED WHILE THERE  
ARE LIMITATIONS ON THE POSTING OF STAFF CAUSED BY THE SHORTAGE  
OF DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION IN DARWIN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT MAY BE  
SOME YEARS BEFORE THIS PROBLEM IS OVERCOME.

UNQUOTE

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